

IT'S A BORE WANDERERS

JUST when it seemed Wycombe Wanderers were heading for their second goalless draw on Saturday, they were awarded a penalty. Tony Horseman scored from the spot and then 60 seconds later Brian Langfield made it 2-0.

The goals at least provided some entertainment to a game that was similar to Saturday's weather - dull and dreary. Nine minutes from the close, Bromley pulled a goal back through Roy Pettet but for their lack of imagination in attack, they certainly did not deserve a share of the Isthmian League points.

With Keith Searle unavailable, Tony Amos returned to attack while Ian Rundle took over the number four shirt and Dave Bullock moved into midfield. On paper the move looked a good one. But Bullock could never settle in his new position and distribution from the centre of the field was generally poor. Even Larry Pritchard had an off day while Wanderers were further disrupted when Alan Gane left the field after half an hour with a cut head.

Once again if there were any prizes for pressure and possession, Wycombe would have won with ease. But they were unable to turn both factors into goals and a breakthrough just didn't seem on the cards at all. Had it not been for the penalty, it might well have ended at 0-0.

The almost constant drizzle made conditions extremely difficult, with the Loakes Park turf staying firm if greasy for most of the first half and then becoming sticky in the second.

Wanderers got off to a good start and Paul Birdseye was only inches off target with a curling drive after four minutes. Two minutes later Tony Amos lifted a similar effort just over the top.

Bromley, too, were lively at the outset when top scorer John Rains brought a sound save from John Maskell in the 11th minute. After that one early glimpse, however, John Delaney blotted out the threat with a fine display at centre half.

In the 14th minute Maskell was penalised for "steps" with referee Turvey awarding an indirect free kick 10 yards inside the Blues' penalty area. Tony Amos was darting around directing the position of the Wycombe wall but after being told to move ten yards back by the referee, was promptly booked for not obeying the order. Pettet drove well wide when the kick was eventually taken.

breaking down Bromley's defence, which by now, was growing in confidence by the minute.

But then, in the 73rd minute Wanderers had a stroke of luck when Mick Miles handled the ball inside the penalty area as he went across to clear. He was only a few yards away from the eagle eye of the referee who immediately pointed to the spot.

although Keith Beerling almost got a hand to it as it flew past.

Two minutes later it was 2-0. Gamblin crossed into the box and Bromley could only half clear. The ball bounced out to Langfield who took his time before lofting it into the net.

The double reverse brought Bromley forward for about the first time in the second half. In the 77th minute they almost reduced

through two tackles and hooked the ball past Maskell, despite falling.

The goals brought the game to life for the final minutes but with five minutes remaining Rains went down badly after a collision with Langfield. The injury looked suspiciously like a broken leg but after the game it was thought the injury was not as serious as first feared.

By STUART EARP; Wycombe W. 2, Bromley 1

Mr. Turvey's decision was one of many that angered the crowd (only 700 incidentally) and his whistle often broke up some promising moves from both sides.

Alan Gane was helped off with a cut head after 27 minutes after a clash with Peter Deadman and after a gap of three minutes, Mick Holifield came on from the substitute's bench.

Bromley, by now falling back on the defensive almost entirely, soaked up the pressure that came from Wycombe thanks to commanding performances from centre backs John and Mick Miles.

It was again made crystal clear that when opponents are prepared to run and challenge Wycombe for every ball, giving them precious little time to set up attacks, the Blues often have no answer. The Bournemouth Youth side paid the penalty for giving Wycombe time to operate to the tune of 10-0. The visitors, however, made no such mistake and busted their opponents into errors ceaselessly.

The pattern of the first half continued in the second. Wanderers never looked in the slightest trouble at the back and they constantly caught Bromley's front runners offside, Rains in particular.

Pritchard fired over early in the half and then Holifield nodded Derek Gamblin's long cross over the top after outjumping the defence.

But they were isolated chances even though Wanderers won an abundance of ball from midfield. They just didn't seem to have a solution to the problem of

On the last occasion Wycombe were given a penalty at Loakes Park, John Delaney sent his kick against a post in the match with Clapton. This time, the onus was on Tony Horseman. Making the goalkeeper's task more difficult by sending the ball up the slope, he struck it high into the net

the arrears when Paul Tomei headed on for Micky Frewing but he fired his shot just wide.

Substitute Mick Rooth came on for Frewing a minute later with Pettet moving into the forward line. The switch paid off in the 81st minute when Rains flicked the ball on for Pettet who barged

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, D. Gamblin, I. Rundle, J. Delaney, P. Birdseye, D. Bullock, A. Gane (sub. M. Holifield 51 mins), L. Pritchard, A. Amos, A. Horseman, B. Langfield.

BROMLEY: K. Beerling, P. Dednarr, C. Brown, R. Pettet, J. Miles, M. Miles, M. Trevett, P. Deadman, J. Rains, M. Frewing (sub. M. Rooth 78 mins), P. Tomei.

Referee: A. Turvey (Wickford).

Half-time: 0-0.

Goalscorers: Wycombe - Horseman (73), Langfield (75), Bromley - Pettet (81).

Attendance: 720.